

OUR WINTER PENSIONERS.

Located in northeastern Iowa on the Mississippi river, with tree-covered bluffs all about us, making favorable conditions for birds, we have many such friends the year round. Even in the winter time, we are favored with those which are ordinarily found in a similar locality. However, this season we are especially favored, for, not only have we had the Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Nuthatches, Chickadees, Juncos, etc., but also several that are supposed to go to a milder climate when winter approaches.

A pair of Red-bellied Woodpeckers are daily feeding from the suet and corn placed on a nearby tree for their use. They often carry the kernels of corn and place in some carefully selected cache.

Three Kentucky Cardinals are frequently seen in our vicinity — one female alighting just outside the window one day and within three feet of it.

We have both seen and heard robins many times this winter.

A Carolina Wren flew into a neighbor's shed December 2. We were able to see it so closely that all the peculiar markings were noted, thus making an unquestioned identification.

Another day, a Winter Wren scolded us in true Jenny Wren fashion, from a house top.

When we consider the unusually cold season — the thermometer registered 38° below zero twice — it seems remarkable that so many birds of milder climate 'preferences should stay with us this year

We can readily account for the large number of pensioners at our board in that the ground is so well covered with snow that food is hard to get. They joyfully welcome our well filled table.

McGregor, Iowa.

MARY E. HATCH.